

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

Inside Stories



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VOL. 88, No. 22

15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

APRIL 24, 2025

CARES Liz Park Joins State Comm. on Juvenile Justice Reform

by Diya Shah

Dr. Liz Park has long worked to keep young people in Greenbelt from entering the juvenile justice system. Now, she's helping the state figure out how to do the same.

Working as the director of Greenbelt CARES for over two decades, Park has led communi-

ty-based efforts to help support adolescents and families in need. In December 2024, Park was appointed to a two-year term on Maryland's Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform and Emerging Best Practices, where she'll help shape statewide policies aimed

See PARK, page 13



PHOTO COURTESY MAYSB

Dr. Liz Park, co-chair of Maryland Association of Youth Service Bureaus and director of Greenbelt CARES

Rally in Greenbelt to Stop Maglev After Governor Voices Support

by Will Hammann

Marylanders rallied in Greenbelt on Saturday to stop the Northeast Maglev Project, voicing their frustrations flared by news of Governor Wes Moore's high praise for the train.

Moore's excitement for the maglev came after he enjoyed a test ride of the train in Japan on April 12, kicking off a trade mission in Asia. He said he was impressed by the experience and touted the potential of a maglev in Maryland as a harbinger of opportunity for the state.

Residents of Prince George's County don't share Moore's enthusiasm. Susan McCutchen, a Bladensburg resident who volunteers with the Maryland Coalition for Responsible Transit has advocated against the maglev since 2017.

According to McCutchen, Moore had spoken with coalition volunteers while he was still running for office but didn't give a clear answer about his position on the maglev. He told them to contact Lieutenant Governor

Aruna Miller, but they got little response despite efforts to provide her with research and briefings.

"And then all of a sudden, he's excited like a teenager," said McCutchen. "It was quite a surprise and we're pissed."

McCutchen was one of

See MAGLEV, page 10



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

A crowd rallies to the call of Stop the Maglev at Greenbelt Library on Saturday morning, April 19. Among those on the stage are Greenbelt Councilmember Kristen Weaver, speaking, State Senator Alonzo Washington (left) and Delegate Ashanti Martinez (right), holding a Stop the Maglev Train sign.

Egg-citement for Everyone At City's Annual Egg Hunt

by Diya Shah



PHOTO BY DIYA SHAH

Attendees eagerly wait for the city's annual egg hunt to begin on Saturday, April 19, in Buddy Attack Park.

Families galore gathered at Buddy Attack Park on Saturday morning for the city's annual Easter Egg Hunt, a long-standing springtime tradition that continues to bring joy and excitement to Greenbelt's youngest residents.

The event, organized by Greenbelt's Recreation Department, featured a colorful scramble for goodie-filled eggs scattered across the grassy field. For a lucky few, golden eggs offered an extra surprise: a prize bag packed with games, toys and

even a gift card.

"It's a huge group effort," said Adam Daelemans, the event's main coordinator. "We've got park rangers, volunteers, recreation staff, the police department ... it's a bunch of people making it work," he said. "I'm technically the coordinator, but I couldn't have done it without help from the whole city."

But Daelemans is the man behind the scenes, gathering the hundreds of eggs, coordinating with multiple city departments to ensure the event runs smoothly from start to finish and ensuring there's entertainment for all the attendees to enjoy once the exhilaration of the hunt wears off.

See EGG HUNT, page 16

City Council Tackles Police Practices, Traffic Safety, GPD and Immigration

by Matthew Arbach

The Greenbelt City Council addressed a wide range of important topics and legislation at the April 14 regular meeting. The meeting began with a pair of petitions. First, resident Tom LeaMond noted the insufficient number of bike racks, mostly in Roosevelt Center, suggesting that more could be installed near the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and the Granite Building, among other places. He suggested that this would inspire more biking in the city. Council was on board with his concern and will examine further.

Second, resident Michael Zeliff pointed out the increasing

proliferation of the invasive plant species lesser celandine throughout most of the city, in backyards and common areas. He noted the difficulties in rooting it out and suggested a study on the most effective eradication strategy, with council in agreement.

Next in the meeting was a series of proclamations. The first was for Telecommunications Week, which occurs on the second week in April. This focuses on the importance of communications personnel in police and safety departments. Greenbelt Police Chief Richard Bowers was present to extoll

See COUNCIL, page 15

Fire at Crescent Pointe



PHOTO BY MICHAEL HARTMAN

A fire broke out in the Crescent Pointe apartments on Tuesday, April 22. See article on page 8.

See the city ad on page 5 and the meetings calendar at greenbeltdmd.gov for more information.

Letters to the Editor

How About a Great Greenbelt Cook Along?

Hearty appreciation and gratitude for the hard work of Geraldine Adams and the whole Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS) team for hosting The Great Food Transition meal on April 16 at the Community Center Kitchen. Community members got the opportunity to cook and share a tasty universal meal (free of allergens, dairy and meat) and discuss how a shared meal could bring us together. The Great Food Transition has been hosting meals for the last year and a half to demonstrate that eating sustainable, super nutritious foods helps our planet, our health and can be very delicious!

The question our packed room tackled was how to bring this idea to neighborhoods all across Greenbelt. How could a common meal that is accessible, affordable and healthy for all bring us closer together to develop solutions for any occasion?

At this special meal, we got a chance to discuss exactly what this could look like through a potential Great Greenbelt Cook Along, which could help coordinate partners to cook, eat and come together around tables, large and small, to eat and source the same meal all over our community.

Can you imagine every Greenbelter cooking and sharing a universal meal throughout our community that cost \$1 to \$2 per serving to make? Can you imagine community members learning how to make universal meals and host group dinners to feed 50 to 100 people? Can you imagine what's possible if we

come together around tables in neighborhood homes, community kitchens at faith institutions or community hubs, all united with the idea of eating and sourcing ingredients from local grocery stores and farmers?

Folks with connections to groups, commercial kitchens and gathering spaces that could host community meals or folks interested in learning how to cook group meals can send an email of interest to greenbeltcodes@gmail.com.

Thank you again for a delicious meal and a fantastic conversation!

Melissa Ann Ehrenreich

School Choice

As a former and retired PGCPS employee it was with disappointment and sadness that I read the article by C. Condon on the audit of PGCPS by the State of Maryland. The numerous irregularities and problems highlighted in the piece solidified my opinion that the education of our youth needs serious reforms and alternative choices for families that also feel our public schools are a disappointment.

With declining test scores and teachers focusing disproportionately on woke, self esteem and social issues and less on the basics, families need to advocate more for school choice. Maryland Governor Wes Moore wants to spend several billion dollars more on public education. (Maryland's blueprint for the future). This results in more taxes and increasing deficit spending for Marylanders that choose to remain here. But we've seen this movie before. More money does not equal better test scores, better teachers,

See LETTERS, page 11

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

The Legend of Ochi

In a remote village on the island of Carpathia, a shy farm girl named Yuri is raised to fear an elusive animal species known as ochi. But when Yuri discovers a wounded baby ochi has been left behind, she escapes on a quest to bring him home. Said critic Richard Abele of the Los Angeles Times, "Burnished by Evan Prosofsky's painterly cinematography, [the film] is a beautiful case for the tactile spectacle of puppetry as maybe the most intimate enchantment tool."

The Wedding Banquet

Wai-Tung (Winston Chao) and his boyfriend (Mitchell Lichtenstein) live happily as a gay couple in New York City. Wai-Tung has not been open about his sexuality with his Taiwanese parents (Sihung Lung, Ah-Leh Gua) and decides to acquiesce to their wish for a traditional Chinese union by marrying Wei-Wei (May Chin), a struggling artist desperate for a green card. But the simple arrangement turns into a lavish debacle when Wai-Tung's parents plan an extravagant wedding banquet.

One to One: John & Yoko

An expansive and revelatory inside look at the 18 months John Lennon and Yoko Ono spent living in Greenwich Village in the early 1970s, the film delivers an immersive cinematic experience that brings to life electrifying, never-before-seen material and newly restored footage of Lennon's only full-length, post-Beatles concert. With mind-blowing remastered audio overseen by their son, Sean Ono Lennon, the film is a seismic revelation that will challenge pre-existing notions of the iconic couple.

Bill W.

Interviews, re-creations and rare archival material tell the story of Bill Wilson, who battled his way to sobriety and helped others beat their addictions through co-founding Alcoholics Anonymous. "The best thing about Bill W. is it paints the man as both inspirational and weak, damaged and determined and always searching. It makes Bill W. human," said critic Tom Long of the Detroit News.



Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org
Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!
Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8
All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
April 25th - May 1st

The Legend of Ochi (PG)
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (95 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Sat. 5:15 PM, 7:45 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Fri. 5:30 PM, 8:00 PM

Mon. 2:15 PM, 4:30 PM

Wed. 3:00 PM

Thurs. 7:30 PM

The Wedding Banquet (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2025) (103 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Fri. 5:45 PM

Mon. 5:00 PM

Wed. 2:50 PM

Thurs. 5:40 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Sat. 5:30 PM

Sun. 5:15 PM

Tues. 8:00 PM

One To One: John & Yoko

(R) (CC) (2024) (100 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Fri. 8:15 PM

Mon. 2:45 PM

Wed. 5:10 PM

Thurs. 8:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Sat. 8:00 PM

Sun. 2:45 PM

Tues. 5:40 PM

Bill W.

(NR) (2012) (104 mins) FREE

Sponsored by Greenbelt Publishers, Greenbelt Step Club, The Del Ray Club, Dupont Circle Club, 180 Club, and Triangle Club

5pm: Book Signing and discussion with Tom Adams and Joy Jones on recently released book *A Marriage That Changed the World*

6pm: Movie

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Sun. 5:00 PM

The Joyless Street

(NR) (1925) (150 mins)

Film in Focus Led by Hester Baer

Capped at 25 Event Pricing

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Mon. 7:00 PM

Salaam Dunk

(NR) (2011) (78 mins)

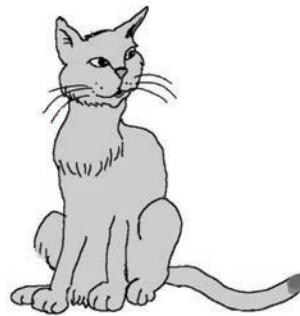
Advancing the Frame Screening

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Wed. 7:30 PM

APRIL 30TH IS ADOPT A SHELTER PET DAY

PETE REPPERT



NO MATTER HOW LONG THEY KEEP ME HERE, I'LL NEVER RAT ON YOU, FLUFFY.

- News Review, April 29, 2021

Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



Greenbelt News Review

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Community Events



PHOTO BY DANIELLE TOWERS

In a photo by Danielle Towers on exhibit in the Community Center, community members dance in Roosevelt Center at the 2024 Greenbelt Honk! Situation Halloween party.

April 24 Artist's Talk At Community Center

Join Danielle Towers for a free artist's talk about her Greenbelt project on Thursday, April 24 at 7 p.m. in Room 112 of the Community Center. RSVP via Eventbrite at [bit.ly/40Fjrbm](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/artist-talk-with-danielle-towers-tickets-598011111111).

From April 24 through June 12, discover eight contemporary photos interspersed among the historic photos of Greenbelt in the first-floor halls of the Community Center. These images comprise the "Invisible City" project by Towers, who was a photojournalism student at the Corcoran School of Arts and Design when she made the photos in the spring of 2024. Towers describes her work as oscillating "in the space between change and permanence, the ideal and the real."

These programs are co-hosted by the Greenbelt Museum and the Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program, with support from the Friends of the Greenbelt Museum and the Maryland State Arts Council. More information is at greenbeltdmd.gov/arts.

Arts Advisory Board Meeting May 6

The Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board will meet on Tuesday, May 6 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Discussion topics will include upcoming event planning and proposed multilingual signage. Greenbelt residents who may be interested in joining the board are encouraged to attend. The draft agenda includes business, a mixer, discussion of Board visibility and a multilingual welcome sign. For more information and to obtain the Zoom link, email alarsen@greenbeltdmd.gov.

Artful Afternoon Offers

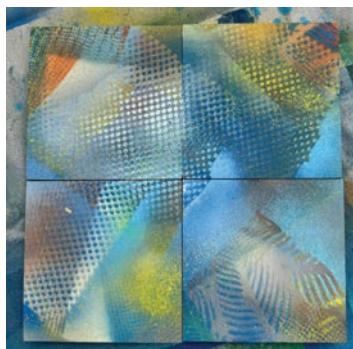


PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT REC ARTS

Spray Painting, More

Enjoy a free all-ages art workshop at the Community Center on Sunday, May 4. Use spray paint and stencils to make fun and imaginative art pieces. The workshop will be led by artist Shaymar Higgs of The SPACE, a place of "free art for all." The event will take place on the front lawn at the Community Center, weather permitting. The rain location is inside the Community Center, Ground Floor East. Pre-register (recommended) at [sugeni.us/VLuA](https://www.sugeni.us/VLuA) for one of two sessions: 1 to 2 p.m. or 2 to 3 p.m. Walk-ins are also welcome. Additional activities on Sunday, May 4 at the Community Center include a free Chinese Dance Concert (3 p.m.) and the spring Art Studio Open House and Sale (1 to 3 p.m.). All activities are sponsored by the Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program. More information is available at greenbeltdmd.gov/arts.



Earth Day (Weekend) Plogging Playgrounds

Join Greenbelt Plogs on Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27 at any Greenbelt playground to participate in plogging, defined as picking up trash while jogging. Greenbelt Plogs will be cleaning up around the many city playgrounds in all of Greenbelt, making them safe and sparkly.

Those interested should contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com and let him know which playground they'll be plogging so as to coordinate efforts and spread the joy of engagement.

Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.

Indoor Yard Sale Benefits GVFD

The Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad (GVFD) Ladies Auxiliary is having an Indoor Community Yard Sale on Saturday, May 10 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the fire house at 125 Crescent Road. Those interested can reserve a table for a fee. For further information call Kathy at 301-474-4372. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. The event is handicapped accessible.

GARF Donation Drive Begins Sunday, April 27

The Greenbelt Alliance for Reproductive Freedom (GARF) will hold its fourth bra and menstrual product donation drive from April 27 through May 17. This year the city's Pink Pantry Project, a program of Greenbelt Assistance in Living, will receive the donated menstrual products. The nonprofit I Support the Girls will receive the bras. New and/or gently used bras of any size or type and new sealed menstrual products will be accepted. Large pads with wings are the period product in highest demand. Gently used means clean, no large stains, broken clasps or straps, holes, stretched out elastic, smoke smell even after washing, missing underwire or underwire poking through. Other items such as period panties, menstrual cups and new underpants in unopened packages are also needed. GARF will be on the Co-op Supermarket ramp on Sunday, April 27 and Saturday, May 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to receive donations. Donations can also be dropped in bins at the Co-op Supermarket, Aquatic & Fitness Center, Youth Center and Community Center throughout the drive until May 17. For more information, email greenbeltarf@gmail.com.

This event is in partnership with Greenbelt Cinema, the Greenbelt Step Club and other Twelve Step clubs and the authors. For more on the event, see page 15 of the April 17 issue.

Alcoholism Awareness Film Screens Sunday

In the time it takes to watch a movie, 30 to 40 people will have died of alcoholism.

Come see a movie about the man who found the way to save millions from addiction.

April is Alcoholism Awareness month and on Sunday, April 27 at 5 p.m. Greenbelt Cinema is offering a free showing of the award-winning documentary "Bill W." about Bill Wilson, the co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous. No ticket is required. It will be accompanied by a short talk about the book *A Marriage that Changed the World*, by Greenbelt resident Tom Adams and his co-author Joy Jones (for more on the book by Adams and Jones see the March 6 and April 17 issues of the News Review).

This event is in partnership with Greenbelt Cinema, the Greenbelt Step Club and other Twelve Step clubs and the authors. For more on the event, see page 15 of the April 17 issue.

Golden Age Club

The Golden Age Club meets most Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center. Annual dues are requested.

At the April 30 meeting there will be a special presentation by therapist Tina Alston, Ph.D., titled *When You Make a Mess, You Clean it Up*.

Quilts Across Maryland Hang at Courthouse

The 22nd exhibition of Quilts Across Maryland currently hangs at the Greenbelt Federal Courthouse on Cherrywood Lane through May 6. The works demonstrate a wide range of styles and techniques that illustrate the versatility of the medium and the creativity of the artists.

Included are quilts by local artists Pat Scully of Greenbelt and Janet Freitag of Berwyn Heights.

This Week at the New Deal Café

Celebrating 30 Years in Greenbelt, 1995-2025!

BECOME A MEMBER!*



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD
Monday, 9am-9pm; Tuesday—Thursday, 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday, 9am – 12midnight;
Sunday, 9am – 9pm

TH 4/24

FRENCH CONVERSATION,
5:30p - 6:30pm
Keyth Jones
CD Release Party
7-9pm
With Miles Gannett &
Eric Selby from Fractal
Cat

FRI 4/25

Moxie Blues Band
8-11pm
Blues, rock and soul
with a splash of fun!

SAT 4/26

NDC JAZZ JAM, 2 - 5pm
Zydeco Zed
8-11pm
An East Coast roots band
blending many musical
elements

SUN 4/27

ASL BRUNCH, 10:30 - 12noon
The Greg Meyer
Project
6 - 8pm
A blend of R&B, classic rock,
funky N'awlins and old soul

MON 4/28

LIVE BAND
KARAOKE W/
MIKE SCOTT &
FRIENDS
6 - 9pm

TUES 4/29

Open Mic w/ Matt
Severson
6:30 - 9:30pm
Sign-ups begin at
6:30pm
EXPRESS YOURSELF!

WED 4/30

Swampgrass
7-9pm
Energetic, vibrant
and DC-based
playing classic
bluegrass and
gospel to rock

TH 5/01

FRENCH CONVERSATION,
5:30p - 6:30pm
Wolf's Blues Show
& Sit-In Jam
6:30 - 10pm
Monthly big,
bodacious blues jam

New Deal Cafe

IT'S THE CAFE'S
30TH
ANNIVERSARY!
Visit our donations
page to help fund
our October
celebration festival!

*Join NDC! Go to [NewDealCafe\(dot\)com](http://NewDealCafe(dot)com), click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

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Take a Class with Greenbelt Access Television!

- Become a Certified Camera Operator through our Panasonic HC-X2000 Class!
- Learn how to Edit on Adobe Premiere or DaVinci Resolve!
- Experience the magic of digital and stop-motion animation!

For all of our Class Offerings, visit GreenbeltAccessTV.org/Classes

Obituaries

Robert Musterman Jr.



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Robert "Bob" Musterman Jr.

Robert "Bob" Francis Musterman Jr., of Centreville, Md., died on April 14, 2025, at the age of 59. Born in Annapolis on November 18, 1965, he was the son of the late Robert Francis Musterman Sr., and Nancy Jean Rhodes Musterman. Bob was raised in Bowie and graduated from Bowie High School, Class of 1983.

Bob dedicated his life to serving and protecting others. In 1984, he began his distinguished law enforcement career with the Greenbelt Police Department, where he served proudly for 29 years. As a key member of the department, he ran the K-9 Unit, leaving behind a legacy of highly decorated dogs, and was a vital part of the SWAT team, trained extensively in tactical operations and as a sniper. Bob also spent time on the Department's Honor Guard, participating in ceremonies and funerals, always available to honor a fallen officer. His unwavering commitment to duty earned him numerous commendations and awards throughout his career, including a Bronze Star, Officer of the Year and multiple instances of the K9 Triple Crown Award.

After retiring from the Greenbelt Police Department, Bob continued to serve the public as a courthouse supervising deputy

Contemplative Prayer Group Meets Tuesdays

A contemplative prayer group meets on Tuesdays at the Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ, 1 Hillside Road, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. This gathering is a time to pray in silence for oneself, others and the world. It nurtures inner and outer peace and reinforces the oneness of all people and creation.

The format for this group is an opening introduction, 30 minutes of silence and then some sharing. All are welcome to attend from all denominations and faith traditions. For more information, email Patience Robbins at patience.robbins@gmail.com.



Holy Cross Lutheran Church
6905 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770
www.myholycross.org
Sunday Worship: 9:30 A.M.
Bible Study: 11:15 A.M.

Thursday Thrift Store
10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

with the Talbot County Sheriff's Department, a position he held at the time he died.

On November 20, 1995, Bob married the love of his life, Dayna Glaser. Together, they built a life filled with love, laughter and adventure. Bob was an avid runner who recently competed in the Frederick Marathon. He was a man of many passions – he loved the ocean, especially spending time on the beach and body surfing. He also enjoyed hunting in his younger years and Car Club with his Mustang, and he loved the occasional Budweiser. Most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He is survived by his beloved wife of nearly 30 years, Dayna Musterman; his children Christopher (Katelynn) of Pasadena, Md., and Jacob and his fiancée Justine "Bean" of Centreville; his siblings Shelley Musterman of Binghamton, N.Y., Wendy Walston of La Plata, Md., and Laura "Lump" Callahan of Oxford, Md.; and his cherished grandchildren, Elaine and Raylee.

Bob will be remembered for his strength, his service and the love he gave to everyone who had the honor of knowing him. Bob loved to live life to the fullest.

A Celebration of Life will be held Thursday, April 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, 408 S. Liberty Street, Centreville, with a service to follow.

Online condolences and sharing of memories may be made at fhnfunerlhome.com.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero

Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Celebrate hope with us.

St. John's Episcopal Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

**Welcomes you each Sunday for
Worship & Sunday School
at 10:00 AM**

Greenbelt Community Church
One Hillside Road
**We are an
Open and Affirming
Church**

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

**Join Us Sunday
10:15 AM
for Worship
and Church School**

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

GCC Donation Drive April 26 and 27

The Greenbelt Community Church will collect clothing, household textiles, small household goods and books on Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sunday, April 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Place soft goods in plastic bags and hard goods in boxes that one person could carry. Books must be boxed separately. Oversized items cannot be accepted. Donations will be taken to Value Village, which pays the church. The church will use these funds to help local environmental organizations. The church is located at 1 Hillside Road. Use the driveway at the rear of the building. For questions, email the Greenbelt Community Church at office@greenbeltucc.org.



Next Favor's Table Community Giveaway

On Saturday, April 26 at 4 p.m. Favor's Table Community Giveaway will be giving away food, new shoes, clothes, diapers, bras, underwear, socks, sanitary pads and household items. Items are new or gently used. Kids must be present to receive toys and shoes. To receive diapers, bring baby's birth certificate/health insurance card. Come with bags. At Mowatt Memorial Methodist Church, 40 Ridge Road, in the rear parking lot behind the church.



Peace Camp Coming Back to Greenbelt

For the past three summers, Little Friends for Peace, a local organization, has been hosting a peace camp at Greenbelt Community Church for children and teens ages 5 to 14. Scheduled for July 21 to 25, the theme will be Mission Imagination, which includes cooperative games, storytelling, team building, conflict resolution and creative ways to inspire positive change. There is a fee, but needs-based scholarships are available. For more information, go to lffp.org/peacecamp.html.



We were sad to learn of the death of Bob Musterman Jr., who served 29 years on the Greenbelt Police Department, including stellar service on the K-9 Unit.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



Sign Up for May's Arthritis Walk, ERHS

On Saturday, May 3 from 9 to 11:30 a.m., Eleanor Roosevelt High School will host the 21st Annual Walk to Cure Arthritis in Prince George's County, to benefit the Arthritis Foundation. Funds raised help in finding solutions, better treatments and a cure. To register for this event or to donate, go to events.arthritis.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=1744.

"O SON OF BEING! Busy not thyself with this world,
for with fire We test the gold, and with gold We test
Our servants." – Bahá'u'lláh



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT

Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

COME TO OUR NEW LOCATION

Community Center Room 114

15 Crescent Rd

ALL ARE WELCOME!



**A Roman Catholic
Intentional Eucharistic
Community**

OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
CCG1985+owner@groups.io

The Bible Says...

**For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only Son, Jesus,
so that everyone who believes in Jesus
will not perish, but have eternal life.**

John 3:16



Sunday Worship Services
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School
(66 Ridge Rd.)

MCFcc.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

**An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue
that respects tradition and becomes your extended family
in the 21st century.**

Friday evening services at 8:00pm

Saturday morning services at 10:00am

Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities

For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org

Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725

Phone: 301-937-3666

www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

April 27, 2025 at 3 p.m.

Be Hope Now

Rev. Diane Teichert with Worship Associate Jim Flaherty

In the spirit of our April theme (Emergence), we'll consider hopeful strategies emerging for this time, sparked by insights from Buddhist Lama Rod Owens, writer/activist Adrienne Marie Brown, and Paint Branchers.

With our Paint Branch Choir, pianist Francesco Barrett, and Music Ministry Director Amelia Peele.

Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD





City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Monday, April 28 at 7:30 pm

ORGANIZATION

Call to Order

Roll Call

Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Reading of the Greenbelt Community Pledge

Petitions and Requests

Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by *] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)

Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations

- 2025 Legislative Session Wrap-Up: Briefing with State Legislators

- Public Hearing - FY2026 Proposed Budget

- Public Hearing - Charter Amendment Resolution to Amend Section 3, "Creation; Qualifications; Compensation" of the City Charter to Raise the Compensation of the City Council

- Results of 2023 Community Questionnaire

* Minutes

Administrative Reports

* Committee Reports

LEGISLATION

- Charter Amendment Resolution of the Council of the City of Greenbelt to Amend Section 4 "Creation; Qualifications; Compensation" of the City Charter to Raise the Compensation of the Council; -2nd Reading and Adoption

OTHER BUSINESS

- 2025 Legislative Wrap-Up: Briefing with Carrington & Associates

- Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Renewal Agreement with Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) for Fiscal Year Ending 2026

- Discussion to Formalize Reappointment Process

- Proposal for Use of Space at the Armory Site for Composting

- Discussion on Legislative Priorities and Actions

- Council Activities

- Council Reports

* Meetings

* Stakeholders

* Resignation/Appointment to Advisory Board

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov.

This agenda is subject to change. For the most up-to-date agenda, visit www.greenbeltdmd.gov/municipalTV or call (301) 474-8000.

MEETINGS FOR APRIL 28 - MAY 2

Tuesday, April 29 at 3:30 pm, **SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, On the Agenda: Approval of Minutes, Discussion on Not for Seniors Only Event

Tuesday, April 29 at 7 pm, **GREENBELT ARMORY SITE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MEETING**

Wednesday, April 30 at 7:30 pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION - PUBLIC SAFETY**

Thursday, May 1 at 5:30 pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**, On the Agenda:

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltdmd.gov/calendar.

ARTS HAPPENINGS

Visit www.greenbeltdmd.gov/arts for more information and many other opportunities!

Artist's Talk with Danielle Towers April 24, 7 pm. Greenbelt Community Center, RSVF via Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/40Firm>. Discover contemporary images interspersed- and in dialogue with, the historic photos of Greenbelt. Images made by the artist for her senior thesis show at George Washington University in the spring of 2024.

Art Studio Open House and Sale! May 4, 1 - 3 pm, Greenbelt Community Center. Tour the studios of our Artists in Residence at the Greenbelt Community Center, and see their latest creations! Greenbelt Recreation teaching artists will be featured as well. Most participating artists will have works available for purchase.

MORE ARTS IN APRIL & MAY

- Raku Observation, 4/26 Schrom Hills Recreation Center
- Art Share (meet-up) 4/27.
- May Artful Afternoons, 5/4 and 5/11, Greenbelt Community Center, and Springhill Lake Recreation Center
- Chinese Dance Concert, 5/4 Greenbelt Community Center

CHEARS FOOD FOREST

Saturday, April 26, 10 am - 1 pm

Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY!

Join our community effort to rejuvenate the riparian buffer at the CHEARS Food Forest. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to remove invasive species and install native trees, shrubs, and perennials to enhance the crucial riparian habitat.

To register, contact Environmental Coordinator, Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll at kdriscoll@greenbeltdmd.gov or sign-up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49AA92BA6FCC34-49105067-city>.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council will conduct a public hearing on the Charter Amendment Resolution of the Council of the City of Greenbelt, to amend §4, "Creation; Qualifications; Compensation" of the City Charter to Raise the Compensation of the City Council.

The City Council will hold a public hearing on this charter resolution on April 28, 2025 at 7:30 pm in the Council Room at the Greenbelt Municipal Building located at 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. Public testimony will be received by the City Council at the hearing on the above date. Written comments may either be presented at this hearing or sent to the City Clerk.

** The public is welcome to attend. The Charter Resolution is available online and at the Clerk's office. For more information, please contact the City Manager's office at (301) 474-8000.*

Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Deputy City Clerk

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO BE HELD DURING THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2025 AT 7:30 PM

CONCERNING THE PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 FOR THE GENERAL FUND AND EACH OF THE OTHER FUNDS OF THE CITY.

This is the first of two Public Hearings on the budget. The second will be held on Monday, May 12, 2025.

The Public Hearing will be held in person at the Municipal Building and virtual via Zoom. Public attendance and participation are encouraged.

All residents of Greenbelt will have a reasonable opportunity to provide written and oral comments and ask questions concerning the entire budget.

Copies of the proposed budget may be examined at the City Offices, 25 Crescent Rd., during normal operating hours. The proposed budget is also posted on the City Web site at <http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov>. For more information, please call 301-474-8000.

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

TOUCH-A-TRUCK EVENT

Saturday, April 26, 11 am - 2 pm

Beltway Plaza Back Parking Lot, 6000 Greenbelt Rd

The City of Greenbelt invites you to our first-ever Touch-A-Truck Event! Bring the whole family for an exciting hands-on experience to explore fire trucks, police vehicles, utility trucks, and more! You will also meet the dedicated professionals who operate these vehicles, learn how they keep our community safe, and even hop in the driver's seat! This is a free event for all ages.

Contact Gizelle Alvarez at g.alvarez@greenbeltdmd.gov.

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE ADVOCACY PRESENTATION

SATURDAY, APRIL 26 AT 1 PM

Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd

Learn about autism acceptance and available resources in this informative session led by the Autism Society of Maryland. We hope to see you there. Together, we can create a more inclusive world-one act of awareness and advocacy at a time!

Contact: Priya Gardner Lemieux, (240) 542-2056, pgardner@greenbeltdmd.gov.

RFP: HANOVER PARKWAY BIKEWAY FACILITY 90% ENGINEERING DESIGN PLAN

Close date: May 30 at 3 pm

The City of Greenbelt ("Owner") requests proposals from qualified civil engineering professionals ("Consultant") for the preparation of 90% engineered design of the Hanover Parkway Bikeway Facility project for the future construction of an off-street bikeway facility along a 1.9-mile corridor on Hanover Parkway.

Please provide an electronic and original hard copy to:

Ryan Sigworth, AICP, Community Planner II
Department of Planning and Community Development
15 Crescent Road, Ste. 200, Greenbelt, MD 20770
sigworth@greenbeltdmd.gov, (240) 542-2042

All requests for clarifications or additional information related to this Request for Proposal (RFP) must be submitted in writing (via email) by May 1, 2025 and directed to Ryan Sigworth AICP, Community Planner II, at rsigworth@greenbeltdmd.gov.

All answers will be provided in writing and posted on the City's website on or before May 16, 2025.

View the RFP at Hanover Parkway Bikeway Facility 90% Engineering Design RFP

View the existing 30% engineered design plan at Appendices and 30% Engineered Design Plan.

ELECTRONICS & STYROFOAM RECYCLING

Saturday, April 26, 9 am - 12 pm

Public Works Facility, 555 Crescent

Electronics Recycling - Accepted: CPUs, monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, laptops, recording equipment, speakers, scanners, surge protectors, cameras, telephones, radios, DVD players, VCRs, fax machines, wires, power cords. NO - ALKALINE BATTERIES or CFLs; NO - TUBE TVs.

Expanded Polystyrene - White, block Styrofoam #6. NEW: egg cartons and food trays!

NO PAINT RECYCLING IN APRIL.

Contact Public Works at (301) 474-8004.

JOIN THE CHARTER REVIEW TASKFORCE

Are you passionate about shaping the future of our city? Do you want to have a say in how our local government operates? Now is your chance to make a difference!

The City of Greenbelt is forming a Charter Review Task Force to evaluate and recommend changes to our city's charter. We are looking for dedicated residents who are eager to contribute their time and expertise to this important process.

Submit an application at the following link: <https://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/government/boards-committees/application-for-appointment-to-boards-and-committees>.

For more information or to apply, please contact City Clerk at banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov or call (301) 474-3870.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltdmd.gov/calendar.

GREENBELT JOB FAIR

Saturday, May 17 12-3 pm
Beltway Plaza Mall (Near T.J. Maxx), 6000 Greenbelt Rd

Join us for our semi-annual Greenbelt Job Fair! Learn about the latest job opportunities, connect with local employers, and get access to a variety of employment resources and training.

Contact Deji Ayoku for more information or to register your business for the Job Fair by emailing dayoku@greenbeltdmd.gov.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

In the City of Greenbelt, we remain committed to embracing and celebrating the diversity of all. As our nation undergoes change, feelings of pride, uncertainty, and even fear may arise. Yet, we stand firm in the pledge that has defined Greenbelt since its inception and will not falter.

Community Pledge:
The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

Learn more at [https://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/government/know-your-rights-immigration-resources](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/government/know-your-rights-immigration-resources).

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE ADVOCACY PRESENTATION

SATURDAY, APRIL 26 AT 1 PM

Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd

Learn about autism acceptance and available resources in this informative session led by the Autism Society of Maryland. We hope to see you there. Together, we can create a more inclusive world-one act of awareness and advocacy at a time!

Contact: Priya Gardner Lemieux, (240) 542-2056, pgardner@greenbeltdmd.gov.

COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Advisory Committee on Education**, **Advisory Committee on Trees**, **Advisory Planning Board**, **Arts Advisory Board**, **Board of Elections**, **Community Relations Advisory Board**, **Ethics Commission**, **Forest Preserve Advisory Board**, **Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability**, **Park and Recreation Advisory Board**, or **Youth Advisory Committee** and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

GREENBELT WELCOME KITS!

Material Drop-Off

We're looking

Local Group Enjoyed Audience With Pope, Mourns His Passing

by Sandy Rodgers

The life and service of Pope Francis, who died on Monday, April 21, is being honored the world over. The Greenbelt flag joined those at Maryland state buildings and at federal buildings across the country that were lowered to half-staff in his honor. Locally he is mourned by groups including the New Ways Ministry, who twice went to Rome to meet with Pope Francis about LGBTQ+ issues, in October 2023 (see the News Review, November 16, 2023) and October 2024.

After learning of the Pope's death, Greenbelter Francis DeBernardo, executive director of New Ways Ministry, who, along with the ministry's staff, has twice met with Pope Francis, issued a statement about the Pope and his influence on the Catholic Church and its relationship to LGBTQ+ people. An excerpt is included below.

On Pope Francis

"With simple words and gentle gestures, Pope Francis powerfully moved the Catholic church to become a more welcoming home for LGBTQ+ people. New Ways Ministry mourns his passing, while at the same time we give thanks for his witness and ministry.

"Francis was not only the first pope to use the word 'gay' when speaking about LGBTQ+ people, he was the first pope to speak lovingly and tenderly to them. His kind words of welcome to this community, traditionally marginalized in the church, rang loudly around the globe. His recommendation to pastoral ministers and church leaders to accompany, listen and dialogue with LGBTQ+ people has opened doors that had been sealed shut by the homophobia and transphobia of previous pontiffs.

"From the early months of his papacy when he uttered the



Art Studio Open House and Sale

On Sunday, May 4, the Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program invites the public to tour the third-floor studios of eight artists in residence at the Community Center from 1 to 3 p.m. Greenbelt Recreation teaching artists will also be featured on the first floor. Most artists will have work available for purchase. For more information, visit greenbeltdmd.gov/arts.

Also at the Community Center on May 4, enjoy a free Artful Afternoon workshop and a Chinese Dance Concert; reservations are recommended for these activities using the links at the website. Greenbelt Recreation Arts Programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.



Standing from left, Bernadette Donlon, Robert Shine, Matthew Myers, Brian Flanagan, and seated from left, Francis DeBernardo, Pope Francis, and Sister Jeannine Gramick, cofounder of New Ways Ministry, in October 2024

now-iconic 'Who am I to judge?' in response to a question about accepting gay priests, through numerous affirming pastoral messages to individual LGBTQ+ people, to his support for civil unions and his condemnation of criminalization laws, Pope Francis has changed the church irreversibly by allowing people to see how their Catholic faith requires acceptance and equality.

"Even with his many groundbreaking milestones, Pope Francis did have areas where his welcome was not as wide as it could have been. In the area of gender identity and transgender issues, the pontiff adhered closely to the male-female gender binary, referring to any newer understandings of gender identity as 'gender ideology' or 'ideological colonization.' His misunderstanding and mischaracterization of gender identity did not, however, prevent Pope Francis from reaching out with compassion to transgender people, continually calling for people to respect the inherent human dignity of these minorities."

- Francis DeBernardo

Transgender, Intersex, Ally Catholics

Pope Francis met on October 12, 2024, with New Ways Ministry staff and a diverse group of transgender, intersex and ally Catholics, including a medical doctor who provides

Crisis Hotline's Number is 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code is 988. Calls and text messages are confidential and free.



PHOTO COURTESY THE NEW WAYS MINISTRY

gender transition care. The nearly 90-minute meeting was arranged by Sister Jeannine Gramick, a U.S. nun who has ministered to LGBTQ+ people and their families for more than 50 years. The visit was sponsored by New Ways Ministry, a national Catholic outreach to the LGBTQ+ community, which Sr. Gramick co-founded in 1977 with the late Fr. Robert Nugent.

Four people shared their testimonies: Nicole Santamaria, an intersex woman from El Salvador who immigrated to the United States because of death threats; Michael Sennett, a transgender man and a theology graduate student, who has been involved with church ministry for many years; Deacon Raymond and Laurie Dever, pastoral ministers who are the parents of a transgender daughter, whose difficult transition led to a suicide attempt; Dr. Cynthia Herrick, a medical doctor specializing in endocrinology and a co-director of a gender medicine clinic.

Also at the meeting were New Ways Ministry staff: Sr. Gramick, co-founder; Francis DeBernardo, executive director; Robert Shine, associate director; Brian Flanagan, theologian and senior fellow; Matthew Myers, operations manager; and Bernadette Donlon, digital content coordinator.

The excerpt from Francis DeBernardo's statement is reprinted, with permission, from the New Ways Ministry blog; to see his full statement, visit NewWaysMinistry.org/blog.

Rounding Up Needed Donations For Emergency Assistance Fund

by Susan Walker

American Rescue Plan Act funds for eviction assistance are gone. It is again the community's responsibility to help. Inflation, job insecurity and unexpected events continue to cause people who work full-time jobs, or multiple jobs, at minimum wage, to be unable to meet their rent. Many only need one month of help to get back on their feet.

Donations will help families with children to not end up living in their cars or on the street. Greenbelt CARES indicates that local rents have escalated to \$1,500 to \$2,500 per month. At least three families a month ask for help. The requests amount to a minimum of \$90,000 per year. Therefore, donations to the Emergency Assistance Fund (EAF) are urgently needed.

Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association (GILA) has also enlisted the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket in their effort to raise money for the EAF. The Co-op has instituted the Round Up Program. When you check out, the cashier rings

up your total, such as \$23.56, and asks if you want to Round Up, i.e., pay an additional 44 cents, making your total \$24.00. The \$0.44 would go to the EAF to help families with their back rent. The program runs through May 31.

There are two other ways to donate: 1) Make checks out to Greenbelt CARES, indicate Emergency Assistance Fund in the memo space and mail to Greenbelt CARES, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770, or place in the secure drop-box at the Municipal Building. 2) Go to the city's website (greenbeltdmd.gov) and click Pay Online at the top of the page and select the Charitable Donations link. Scroll down to the form, fill it out and click submit. Pay using PayPal or with a credit card via PayPal Guest.

This fundraising campaign is a GILA initiative; the group is a sponsor of the EAF. GILA asks everyone to spread the word about this continuing need.



PHOTO COURTESY KIMBERLY BELL

Kimberly Bell shows her hometown pride on the County Antrim coast of Northern Ireland by holding the News Review and wearing a T-shirt showing the work of a local (to Greenbelt) artist and poet, Kate B. Penbleeds. The ruins of Dunluce Castle are seen in the background.

ANGELS vs. DEVILS
8pm, Sat, 4/26

FIRE vs. WHEEL
2pm, Sun, 4/27

STAR TREK vs. STAR WARS
8pm, Sat, 5/3

GAC
GREENBELT ARTS CENTER
123 Centerway

EPIC LAUGH BATTLES OF HISTORY!

"Fun for the whole family!"

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8pm, Sat, 4/26

FIRE vs. WHEEL
2pm, Sun, 4/27

STAR TREK vs. STAR WARS
8pm, Sat, 5/3

GAC
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EPIC LAUGH BATTLES OF HISTORY!

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FY 2026 Budget**Capital Projects Discussed In Budget Worksession**

by Deanna Dawson

Following the discussion of the Public Works budget at the April 2 worksession, the Greenbelt City Council shifted to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget for Capital Projects. All of the city's construction projects and major purchases, other than vehicles and items scheduled to be purchased from the Replacement Fund, are included in the Capital Projects budget and prioritized based on staff input. Council asked about the status of some projects.

EV Charging Stations

Mayor Emmett Jordan inquired about the electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in the city, wondering if they generate revenue. City Manager Josué Salmerón said that for the charging station by the Municipal Building, which is run by the EV Institute, the city does receive a payment to offset the electricity consumed.

The city will soon install 10 charging stations in the Community Center/Library parking lot and more are being planned for Buddy Attick Park. The Blink platform will be used for these charging stations but how they will be managed is still to be decided. The city's Green Team and its EV Circle will be consulted and Salmerón will bring a recommendation to council. Options are to have the city be the service provider, with council setting the rates and other parameters, or to outsource those activities to a third party. For example, Pepco manages the charging stations at Springhill Lake Recreation Center and Schrom Hills Park and the city has no control over them.

Councilmember Kristen Weaver noted that there is at least one charging station in the parking garage at Verde apartments and others at Motiva. She thinks that users must register and get a card from the apartment management, which is another possible model to consider.

Pepco and Streetlights

Pepco has proposed selling streetlights to municipalities. Salmerón said \$80K had been allocated in the FY 2025 budget but the city has not yet reached an agreement with Pepco for FY 2026. The city could use existing reserves to buy LED lights and do the upgrades or use a financing model and pay for lights with the savings that LED-converted lights would generate. However, there is not yet enough information to budget for those lights.

Dog Park Water

Councilmember Silke Pope asked about the water situation at the dog park. Salmerón said the city has reached out to the contractors who bid on the project in 2023 to get updated pricing. He said a water line could cost \$120K or more but any portable option would require upkeep and management. Weaver expressed skepticism about the high cost of bringing potable water to the dog park. Councilmember Rodney Roberts said that a well could be dug for a few thousand dollars.

**GIVE BLOOD
GIVE LIFE**

but the easiest and cheapest solution is for dog owners to bring water to the park for their dogs.

Greenbelt Cinema

Jordan asked about the \$350K in state bond bill funds that the city had been awarded for improvements to the Greenbelt Cinema. Assistant City Manager Timothy George noted that any work on the building must be approved by Maryland Historical Trust but plans are to make the restrooms ADA compliant, improve the marquee to make it easier and safer to post movie names plus more than 20 other subprojects. Salmerón added that they had hoped to upgrade the projection server, closed-captioning, ADA audio description and some other items but restrictions on bond bill funds do not allow it.

Metro Connector Trail

Planning and Community Development Director Terri Hraby said the project, which was put on hold while discussions about the FBI headquarters were underway, is now moving forward. She is revising the budget and procurement documents and hopes to have the procurement package to the state in a couple of months. Once approved, the city can bid the project and hopefully get a contractor onboard who can work with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority on security issues and start construction before the end of FY 2026.

Jordan stressed the importance of getting work on this trail started, as it has long been promised to Greenbelt Station residents.

General Concern

Jordan commented that he's concerned that the revenue projections in the budget are overly optimistic, given the uncertainties with federal, state and county funding as well as tariffs. Salmerón said that the budget was good as of March 24, when it was released, but the world has changed since then. He added that there are several contingencies should revenues fall short.

Other Concerns

Roberts reported that there are stakes and marked trees near the one-lane bridge on Beaverdam Road east of the Research Road intersection, suggesting that the county intends to replace the bridge and straighten the road. He is concerned that any road improvements will allow drivers to drive faster, putting Greenbelt bikers and walkers at risk. Salmerón will reach out to the county regarding their plans for Beaverdam Road and try again to schedule a worksession with the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

**Greenbelt Makerspace Repair Café**

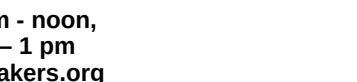
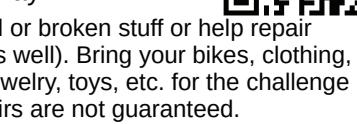
Saturday Apr. 26 from 10 am - 2 pm
at the Granite Bldg, 115 Centerway

Come learn how to repair your tired or broken stuff or help repair others' items (volunteers needed as well). Bring your bikes, clothing, furniture, appliances, computers, jewelry, toys, etc. for the challenge of making them useful again. Repairs are not guaranteed.

Tool Library **Saturdays 10 am - noon,**
Sundays 11 am - 1 pm
<https://tools.greenbeltmakers.org>



Toss it? No way!



Calls for Abrego Garcia's Return; White House Resistance Continues

by Diya Shah

Beltsville resident Kilmari Abrego Garcia is still being detained in El Salvador after being mistakenly deported from the United States, despite Supreme Court orders to the Trump administration to "facilitate" his release.

On Tuesday, April 15 at a hearing at the courthouse in Greenbelt, Judge Paula Xinis ordered expedited discovery and for government officials to testify under oath as to their compliance or obstruction in the case. Greenbelters and others again gathered outside the courthouse with signs and songs calling for Abrego Garcia's return.

Last week, Abrego Garcia was transferred from CECOT, the maximum-security prison where detainees are cut off from the outside world and cannot meet with lawyers, to a different facility. This news comes after U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) met with Abrego Garcia at a hotel in San Salvador on Thursday, April 17. The photos of the two men conversing are the first public images of Abrego Garcia since his deportation in March, which the Trump administration admitted in court was an error. However, President Donald Trump and his deputies are now doubling down on their



A large crowd of supporters and media gathers outside the courthouse on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 15.

PHOTO BY JESSICA OROARK

claim that Abrego Garcia is a member of the MS-13 gang, designated as a terrorist organization, and that Abrego Garcia and other migrants were rightfully deported and imprisoned in El Salvador.

"This is an example of the much bigger challenge, no doubt about it," said Van Hollen about Abrego Garcia's case to news media on Thursday. That same afternoon, Trump stated that he's "not involved," when asked by a reporter whether he would move to return Abrego Garcia to the U.S. On Monday, April 21, four House Democrats traveled to

El Salvador to push for Abrego Garcia and other migrants' release and demand updates on their condition. According to the lawmakers, Salvadoran officials did not allow them to meet with Abrego Garcia personally.

Diya Shah is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.



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to schedule an appointment.



No Injuries in Crescent Pointe Fire, Greenbelt Not Among Responders

At approximately 4:15 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, firefighters responded to 32 Crescent Road for a structural fire in the apartment building. A section of Crescent Road between Gardenway and Southway was closed for approximately 90 minutes due to trucks stationed there.

The fire began in a kitchen of one of the building's six apartments, which are made of cinder

block and positioned two on each of its three floors. Residents of the building were evacuated without injury. The fire was contained to a single unit.

West Lanham Hills Volunteer Fire Department was first on the scene, and others responding, including Prince George's County Fire Department and Colmar Manor. Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department did not respond.

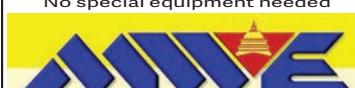


Firefighters at work

PHOTO BY MICHAEL HARTMAN

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Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Are Focus of April 7 Meeting

by Diane Oberg

Pedestrian and bicycle safety was the main topic of discussion at the April 7 worksession of the Greenbelt City Council and representatives of the District 3 office of the State Highway Administration (SHA). The discussion focused on Greenbelt Road from its intersection with Hanover Parkway down to Beltway Plaza.

Md. 193 at Hanover Parkway

There were several pedestrian safety issues raised relating to the intersection of Hanover Parkway and Greenbelt Road (Md. 193). The first issue concerns the Greenbelt Road crosswalk on the western side of Hanover Parkway. The lack of a streetlight in this area makes it difficult for drivers to see pedestrians. In addition, the timing does not allow sufficient time for pedestrians, especially seniors and those with disabilities, to cross the highway. Once they get across Greenbelt Road, they are stranded on the "pork chop," the traffic island where eastbound Greenbelt Road drivers can turn onto Hanover Parkway, and many do not yield to pedestrians. J Davis, watching remotely, commented that some states have eliminated pork chops due to safety concerns.

This is a failing intersection, said Mayor Emmett Jordan, where traffic moving on a green light does not always clear the intersection before the light changes, blocking the crosswalk. At peak times, the volume of traffic is such that traffic backs up and the intersection comes to a halt.

Most of these issues and ideas were discussed at the November 2022 worksession with SHA.

There is some progress to report. Robert Stewart, team leader for Prince George's County, Laurel District 3 traffic, said SHA expects to complete a traffic study of this intersection in the spring or summer of this year. They are also coordinating with Pepco regarding a streetlight at the northwest corner of the intersection with installation expected later this spring.

Speeding was another council concern in this area. Councilmember Kristen Weaver said that in the summertime, she is told, the road is being used as a race-track. She had the same concern about Kenilworth Avenue (Md. 201). Erich Florence, deputy district engineer, said that they can do a spot speed study of the area. He said the Greenbelt Police can submit a request for speed cameras to see if they are warranted. Stewart said that SHA will be enlarging speed limit signs along Greenbelt Road, which should increase compliance.

Md. 193 at B-W Parkway

Councilmember Jenni Pompi raised the issue of the merging of traffic coming off the Baltimore-Washington Parkway onto westbound Greenbelt Road. The city had previously requested a traffic study of this area, she said. Pompi complained that Parkway traffic speeds up, instead of yielding to Greenbelt Road traffic trying to move into that lane to turn onto Southway. Jordan agreed, saying that Greenbelt Road traffic has the right of way. Councilmember Rodney Roberts suggested eliminating the "slipway" and

requiring Parkway traffic to turn at the traffic light. Pompi agreed.

SHA's Florence said he would follow up and get back to the city.

Md. 193 at Lakecrest Drive

Councilmember Silke Pope expressed concern about the intersection of Lakecrest Drive, Legion Drive and Greenbelt Road. During peak periods, she said, the intersection gets quite congested making it hard for traffic on Legion Drive to get out. Stewart said he is not aware of any further plans for that intersection but they could do a traffic study.

Md. 193 at the Beltway

Council also had concerns about the Greenbelt Road underpass at the Capital Beltway. Jordan notes that there is no light, making it dangerous after dark, silt builds up on the sidewalk, the sidewalk is in poor repair and there are no accommodations for bicyclists. Florence had good news on this issue. SHA has a funded project to replace the bridge, which will include improvements to the underpass including lighting. He did not yet have a construction schedule.

Kenilworth at Md. 193

Pope raised concerns about traffic movements on Kenilworth Avenue between the Beltway off-ramp and Greenbelt Road. Drivers will drive on the shoulder to get into the turn lanes sooner or zoom across the turn lanes to get onto Kenilworth. She suggested a physical barrier is needed. Stewart said SHA is looking at flex-posts, which should help.

Bike Lanes

Roberts objected to the SHA encouraging bike traffic to mingle with motor vehicles. To be safe, bicyclists need protected areas for travel, he said. If bike lanes were protected, he said, more people would use them.

An example of this concern



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was raised by Councilmember Danielle McKinney. Looking at the unprotected bike lanes on Greenbelt Road between Kenilworth Avenue and Beltway Plaza, she noted the many conflicts. There are many turns across the bike lanes, including onto Edmonston Road, into the bus lot and into the shopping center. She questioned the safety of the bike lanes with all the crossing traffic. Some drivers still treat the rightmost lane as an auxiliary lane rather than obeying the pavement lane markings.

Stewart said the SHA is looking to install flexposts to force drivers back into the through lanes.

Greenbelt East Trail

Stewart reported that the SHA has prepared a feasibility study of the proposed Greenbelt East Trail, which is currently under review. This is a proposed shared use path on the north side of Greenbelt Road from Hanover Parkway to the Glenn Dale Splash Park. He expects the report to be released later this year.

Who Does What?

Jordan asked about who is responsible for litter pickup and trimming bushes along the two highways and for maintaining sidewalks, including clearing of snow and ice, which he said is beyond the city's capability. Florence said that SHA is responsible for maintaining the roadways and for repairing and installing lighting. They currently have an initiative to upgrade the lighting. However, he said, Maryland state code delegates the maintenance of sidewalks along state highways to local jurisdictions, although SHA will step in for structural repairs.

Residents can report problems using the SHA's Customer Care Management System. This is accessible at roads.maryland.gov.

Hands-Off! Protests Continue On Spellman Overpass

On Saturday, April 19, residents again gathered together in protest against the Trump administration and its recent actions. The Hands Off in Our Fair City demonstration was part of a national 50501 movement for 50 protests in 50 states as part of

one movement to "uphold the constitution and end executive overreach." On Greenbelt's Spellman Overpass participants waved at vehicles, displayed their signs and the Greenbelt Honk! Situation band accompanied the protesters.



The April 19 protest on the Spellman Overpass

PHOTO BY DAN LOWERY



Members of the Honk! Situation play on the Spellman Overpass during the April 19 protest.

PHOTO BY JOHN CAMPANILE

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Sharla Peters-Smith Is Named New S/T Coordinator at ERHS

by Njeri Kamenwa

Five months ago, the Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) community was shocked to learn that former Science and Technology (S/T) Coordinator Dr. Donald Walker had silently retired (see the November 20, 2024, issue). The ERHS staff worked diligently to find someone to take his place, and hired Dr. Sharla Peters-Smith. The monthly Parent Newsletter announced the decision on February 5, reporting that Peters-Smith "has been a member of the teaching staff for approximately eight years," and has supported the S/T program in numerous capacities, such as teaching various science classes, facilitating Research Practicum and supporting Science and Tech Summer Bridge. The Raider Review interviewed her via email.

Peters-Smith attended Morgan State University for her undergraduate degree in biology and received her doctorate in microbiology from Howard University. Before working at ERHS, she taught at Drew-Freeman Middle School in Suitland, and has been an adjunct professor of natural sciences at Prince George's Community College for more than 14 years. According to the Prince George's County Public Schools website, Peters-Smith's new role includes "overseeing and assisting with the planning, implementation, monitoring and assessment of the Science and Technology Program." Unfortunately, that means this year will be Peters-Smith's last year as a classroom teacher. Though her students are sad to see her go, they wish her well as she adjusts to her new role. She hopes that when she leaves the classroom completely, she can "get to the point where students can drop by to ask questions and share concerns or successes."

The biggest concern students, parents and teachers had with Walker's absence was the lack of communication beforehand. As the new S/T Coordinator, Peters-Smith plans to release newsletters and conduct parent panels and in-person meetings. As for student communication, she realizes that "there are only so many hours in a day" and doesn't have much free time as "there are a lot of new protocols and procedures to learn." Nonetheless, she will make time for students during her office hours "once the dust settles," she says, and she is fully out of the classroom.

Peters-Smith will finish her tenure as a science teacher this school year and will start next school year as the new S/T Co-



Sharla Peters-Smith

PHOTO BY NJERI KAMENWA FOR THE RAIDER REVIEW

ordinator. She hopes to "create an environment where students feel comfortable conferring with [her]" and believes good leadership begins with good listening skills.

The ERHS community wishes her well on this next chapter of her teaching career.

Njeri Kamenwa is a student at Eleanor Roosevelt High School and co-editor-in-chief of the Raider Review, where this article first appeared.

Greenbelt CORES Invites Solutions

Greenbelt residents frustrated by the Trump administration's effects on federal services, scientific research, federal employees, humanitarian aid and international affairs began working with each other and the city to invite Greenbelt residents' input to generate and begin implementing 100 solutions to set a brighter course for Greenbelt.

The CORES webpages say that "Greenbelt CORES (Collaborative Opportunities for Resilient & Enduring Solutions) is being organized by residents with city support with a goal to develop at least 100 solutions over the next 90 days to keep Greenbelt wonderful, welcoming and built to last. We must act to make Greenbelt a place that thrives no matter what."

The following forms invite residents' initial ideas, including identifying issues needing solutions and offering their skills.

English: <https://tinyurl.com/yxexb65a>

Español: <https://forms.office.com/r/Txcz8imG5f>

MAGLEV continued from page 1

roughly 100 attendees at the annual post-legislative session meeting held by State Senator Alonso Washington for constituents. This year, Moore's excursion in Japan prompted Washington to swiftly change his meeting agenda to allocate time specifically for rallying against the maglev.

He was joined by McCutchen and over a dozen elected officials from Prince George's and Anne Arundel Counties on a stage in the Greenbelt Library to show their solidarity in the fight against the maglev and respond to questions and comments from residents.

Washington began the discussion by saying that the officials standing on stage had met with Moore multiple times and informed him that their communities opposed the maglev. Still, they had only just learned of his support for it after his ride in Japan.

"Today we're asking the governor to retract his support, asking him to listen to us and hear why this isn't going to help us here in our state," Washington said.

Washington and other officials have tried to push legislation prohibiting the use of state funds for maglev. The project has a \$13 billion price tag so far, and the state currently faces a budget deficit of \$3 billion, but such bills did not pass, either.

They've also tried passing laws preventing the use of eminent domain for the maglev based on the precedent of its use in railroad construction, but those never passed either.

The officials repeated throughout the meeting that although they oppose the maglev, they support "smart mass transit" that will benefit people locally. Washington said that they will continue investing in transit such as Amtrak, the Purple Line and Metro.

To Greenbelt Councilmember Jenni Pompi, smarter mass transit is transit that is affordable, like the bus or Metro, unlike the maglev which she says will be very expensive.

"Providing more routes and more buses through our community that can help our residents who don't have cars get further,"



PRELIMINARY AGENDA Meetings of the GHI Board of Directors on May 1, 2025

GHI Closed Meeting – starts at 7:00 p.m. - closed to members and visitors

- Approve Minutes of the GHI Closed Meeting Held on April 3, 2025
- Contract Matters
- Member Matters

GHI Open Meeting – starts after GHI Closed Meeting - open to members and visitors

- Statement of Closed Meeting Held on May 1, 2025
- Approve Minutes of the GHI Open Meeting Held on April 3, 2025
- Discussion Items for May 5, 2025, Work Session with the City Council
- Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on May 15, 2025

Members and visitors who wish to attend the Open meetings must register in advance via the following link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtd-uuqzoiG9XHGq9rsWP_N9LZj33gb19

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



A Maglev rally sign

the maglev situation, which has stalled with the project undergoing an environmental review for the past three years.

Davis said that executive orders issued by President Donald Trump to cut environmental regulations, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, and the reductions in the workforce of federal agencies, such as the EPA, could accelerate the maglev's progress.

"If that gets gutted, that is one protection that we can't count on," she said.

Losing that protection could also increase maglev's environmental burden, a problem that brings the issue to the attention of Marylanders outside of Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties.

Columbia resident Kurt Schwarz attended the rally on behalf of the Maryland Ornithological Society and said he opposes the maglev because it would destroy hundreds of acres of forest and wildlife habitat around the District of Columbia.

The society has prepared a letter to send to Miller, Maryland Secretary of the Environment Serena McIlwain and Maryland Secretary of Natural Resources Josh Kurtz. Schwarz urged audience members not to give up their struggle, citing a previous bill that would disrupt Maryland wildlands which eventually died despite support from Moore.

"We are with you in this struggle, and hopefully we can persuade the governor to give up on this," Schwarz said.

Before the meeting had begun, representatives of the maglev project stood outside the Library with their own signs and flyers supporting the train, but they did not stick around for the rally.

McCutchen, who had started visiting Greenbelt as a result of her anti-maglev involvement, said she's learned one thing about the city: "You don't mess with Greenbelt."

Will Hammann is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the Greenbelt News Review.

GHI Candidates Forum

See which of your neighbors are running, learn their views, and ask questions!

7:30pm Tuesday April 29
Municipal Building
25 Crescent Road

Watch Live from your couch!
See viewing options at www.greenbeltdmd.gov under "Municipal Access TV"

5pm Tuesday April 29

Final deadline to declare candidacy for Board of Directors, Audit Committee, or Nominations & Elections

7:30pm Thursday May 8

Annual Membership Meeting
Community Center Gym. Must attend in person to participate.



Thursday & Friday May 8-9

Vote online at your convenience!
Or in-person Thursday after the meeting or Friday 4-8pm at GHI!

Questions?

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or call N&E Chair Tom Jones: 301-474-6001

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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred April 14-20, 2025. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported one death, one mental health diversion involving suicide, one sexual assault, and two missing person reports, one resolved and one regarding a juvenile who has a history of leaving.

Assault

On April 19 at 6:54 p.m. near Springhill Drive and Market Lane, a woman was assaulted by another woman who fled before police arrived.

On April 19 at 6:57 p.m. near 6106 Breezewood Court, a woman assaulted a girl whose father was on scene. Both parties refused medical treatment, and charges were filed for assault against the adult.

On April 20 at 4:56 p.m. near 5903 Cherrywood Lane, when three men broke a man's bedroom window, he saw them fleeing and chased them; he was then assaulted and sustained minor injuries.

Fights

On April 14 at 5:21 p.m. near 6114 Breezewood Drive, officers responded to a large juvenile fight. The group fled in different directions but officers were able to stop and identify most of the juveniles.

On April 15 at 7:43 p.m. near 8201 Mandan Court, two men were involved in an argument that turned physical. Neither party was severely injured, and both men refused any further police action.

DUI Arrest

On April 15 at 4:41 p.m. near Cherrywood Lane and Kenilworth Avenue, police stopped a vehicle that was driving erratically. The driver was under the influence of a narcotic and was arrested for DUI. Suspected controlled dangerous substances were found in the vehicle.

Fraud

On April 14 near 424 Ridge Road, a woman received notice that she was being sued for a loan in her name that she did not apply for or know anything about. On April 18 near 7706 Hanover Parkway, an unknown suspect used a woman's card to

purchase items throughout Maryland.

Shoplifting

On April 16 at 12:12 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man was caught after stealing, charged with a criminal citation and banned from the location. On April 18 at 11:05 a.m. near 7583 Greenbelt Road, three men stole merchandise and fled in a new model red Honda Civic; at 1:56 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man stole toys and fled out of the store's rear exit; at 5:45 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, two women took baskets full of items without paying and left in a silver Hyundai (Va. TCY-5301). On April 19 at 7:34 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man stole jewelry.

Vehicle Crimes

Stolen Vehicles

Five vehicles were stolen: on April 14 near 172 Westway, a blue 2016 Hyundai Sonata (Va. TPX6056); on April 15 near 53 Crescent Road, a silver 2014 Hyundai Elantra (Md. 1EY3168); on April 16 near 5907 Cherrywood Lane, a white 2005 Ford

Econoline; on April 18 near 7808 Lakecrest Drive, a black 2012 Infiniti (Md. 5EJ7880); and on April 19 near 7300 Morrison Drive, a 2020 Honda CR-V (Va. TRY3206).

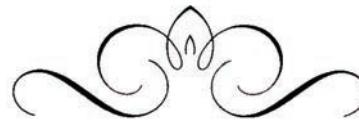
Theft from Auto

The catalytic converter was stolen from two cars: on April 17 near 9138 Edmonston Court from a 2016 Toyota Tundra; and on April 19 near 8100 Greenbelt Station Parkway.

On April 14 near 7501 Greenway Center Drive, a rear tag was stolen from a 2021 Honda Civic (Md. 6EP3075). On April 16 near 6204 Springhill Drive, the wheels were stolen from a 2023 Honda Civic. On April 17 near 7807 Mandan Road, a window was broken on a 2006 Lexus IS; several items were taken. On April 17 near 8419 Canning Terrace, a backpack containing several items was stolen from a vehicle.

Vandalism to Auto

On April 17 near 7772 Mandan Road, and near 7200 Hanover Drive, vehicle windows were broken but nothing was stolen.



Love Independent Films? Screen Them at Utopia Festival

by Susan Gervasi

Greenbelt's 21st Utopia Film Festival needs movie-loving volunteer screeners to help select works for its upcoming October Festival. Screening offers a rare opportunity to review new shorts, documentaries and features submitted to Utopia by local filmmakers and those from across the nation and around the world.

Screeners meet twice monthly, starting in mid-May and continuing through August, at the Community Center to watch entries together, but films are also viewable from the comfort of your own home computer. After viewing entries, screeners evaluate

works in an easy-to-use online format at filmfreeway.com, where independent filmmakers submit their entries.

This year's festival is slated for October 18 to 19 at the Greenbelt Cinema, the New Deal Café, the Greenbelt firehouse and the Municipal Building. Email utopiafilmfest20770@gmail.com to volunteer. Volunteering for Utopia is also an opportunity to meet fellow film-lovers and filmmakers and to attend all film events for free.



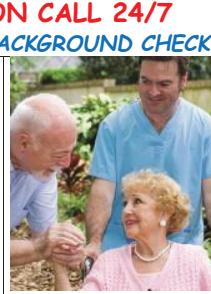
ELECTION

continued from page 7

of distinguishing in my vote between the candidates who I want to be on council and the candidates who I'm OK with being on council," said Barnes. "As it is now I can indicate who I want to be on council by voting for them and who I don't want to be on council by not voting [for] them, but there's the middle category of candidates and I want to be able to indicate that that's what I feel."

Residents in favor of RCV or a variation will have to wait. Ranked choice voting will not be in place for this upcoming election, Gilbert said.

Ryan Colasanti is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.

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Greenbelters Make Music, Art At Two Artful Afternoons

Greenbelt Recreation Arts last April began holding two Artful Afternoons each month in two locations: at the Community Center on the first Sunday of the month and at Springhill Lake Recreation Center on the second Sunday.

On Sunday, April 6, Arts staff set out a sweeping arc of chairs in the back room of Community Center, Ground Floor East and a bounty of pencils, sharpies, watercolors and instructions in the front room. Soon community members of all ages started gathering to try their hand at drawing, then outlining and finally painting koi fish in a workshop led by Greenbelt artist Barbara Joann Combs. As they worked, musicians arrived carrying ukes and music stands. Painting continued to the joyful sounds of strumming and singing old favorites in a ukulele jam led by Greenbelt Recreation instructor and Artist-in-Residence Rachel Ann Cross. About 60 painters participated, along with 40 musicians using song books provided ahead of time.



News Review copy editor Rasheeda Childress and her son Eric enjoy painting koi fish at the Artful Afternoon at the Community Center on Sunday, April 6.

PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT RECREATION ARTS

On April 13, artists again gathered to paint koi fish with Combs at Springhill Lake Recreation Center. This time, instead of listening to ukulele players, they got to learn how to hip-hop from local dance instructor Dushawn Thompson of Evolution Dance Studio.

Artful Afternoons are a twice-monthly free series sponsored by Greenbelt Recreation with support from the Maryland State Arts Council. For more city arts program information, visit greenbeltd.gov/arts.



Letters, from p.2

smarter students. Maryland and several blue states spend anywhere from \$15,000 to \$20,000 per student but scores either stay the same year to year or even drop slightly.

The federal education department does not need 4,100 employees. I disagree with the Trump administration's proposal to totally eliminate the Dept. of Education, however. Instead

it should remain staffed at say, 800 to 1,000 as they will need to promote, advocate and serve as a clearing house and resource for state education departments researching and exploring school choice options: private schools, independent schools, faith-based education, home schooling, charter schools, community and co-op micro schools and study abroad schools.

Robert Snyder



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PARK continued from page 1

at prevention, rehabilitation and equity.

Park's Appointment

The commission was established by the Maryland General Assembly as a follow-up to an earlier working group on juvenile justice reform. The newly formed commission aims to assess the state of juvenile services, identify current issues and recommend best practices for the future.

The legislation that created the commission required representation from a range of stakeholders involved in juvenile justice, such as the judiciary, law enforcement, public defenders and youth service bureaus – which is where Park comes in. In addition to leading Greenbelt CARES, Park also co-chairs the Maryland Association of Youth Service Bureaus, making her a natural fit to represent that group on the commission. "That's how I got selected," she said.

At Greenbelt CARES, Park oversees programs aimed at preventing juvenile delinquency and diverting young people who have already had contact with the justice system. The organization offers free counseling, parenting and anger management classes, GED preparation, tutoring and job-readiness programs – all designed to support families holistically.

The Whole Person

"We've worked hard to create an environment where we try to look at the whole person," said Park. For example, if a family comes to CARES with a child who's been in trouble but is also facing challenges like unpaid electric bills or food insecurity, Park said the team takes an ecosystemic approach. "How do we address all the needs of that family?" is the question she said they try to ask.

Her work on the commission reflects that same wraparound approach. Park is serving on two work groups within the commission – one focused on system processes within the Department of Juvenile Services and another on rehabilitative services. With the rehabilitative services group, Park said that they've been working on hearing from different programs and existing resources throughout the state and collecting information. "How are [the programs] working and how can we better connect young people

and families to those resources so that they don't go further into the system?"

Treatment of Girls

One area under review by the commission is the treatment and programming of girls in the juvenile justice system. Park noted that most facilities and protocols were originally designed with boys in mind, resulting in gaps in care for girls. "There are so many unique experiences that separate girls," she said, pointing to inequities in how resources are allocated to the facilities where girls are housed. "Do they need a different type of treatment than boys?" Park asked. That's one of the questions she hopes to help answer during her two-year term.

Equity Focus

Throughout her career, Park has remained focused on equity – and that's her biggest goal for her next two years with the commission. "How do we equalize this system and make it more equitable?" she asked. According to Park, young people of color are 90 percent more likely to be involved in the juvenile justice system than white youth and receive harsher sentences for the same offense.

Park wants the justice system to do what it's meant to do: "to offer reform – not just to incarcerate and further traumatize a young person," she said.

Recommendations

By the end of Park's term, the Commission is expected to produce a final report with recommendations for the Maryland General Assembly. While the legislature will ultimately decide what to implement, Park has trust that the diverse representation on the commission will help turn the proposals into real change.

Park hopes the community-focused model she has implemented through her work with Greenbelt CARES will help to inform the commission – and subsequently the state. "We have to help the whole family, help the community and not just provide a direct service to one person," she said. After decades of serving her local community, she believes that what's worked in Greenbelt can work for youth and families across Maryland as well.

Diya Shah is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.



The six-spotted tiger beetle, *Cicindela sexguttata*, a useful predator, hunted near GHI along Ridge Road on April 17.

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To Keep Greenbelt a "Tree City," Trees Planted in GHI Common Areas

by Catherine Plaisant



PHOTO BY BRYAN BRUNS

Bill Phelan, John Klinovsky and Catherine Plaisant plant a small swamp white oak in a GHI common area.

surprised to see bald cypresses or swamp white oaks, but those species tolerate both prolonged soaking and drought. These qualities enhance the resilience of our urban forest in a changing climate. Also planted were yellowwoods, a nearby native, and a non-native deodar cedar.

Some areas were planted with traditional large trees, while other areas were planted with much smaller trees, some as seedlings. The small trees are protected by tubes, which act as micro greenhouses. Small trees tend to become established faster, with healthier root systems, so that within a few years, they might be as tall as if they had been planted as large nursery trees. They also are much less expensive and easier to plant, and their watering requires a smaller volume of water – an important point, as common areas do not have water access.

Greenbelt was recognized as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in 2001. "We plant on average about 230 trees a year, so that's about 2,750 trees in 25 years," said Brian Townsend, the city's assistant director of Public Works.

Most of the newly planted trees in GHI are native to Maryland but not all are common in GHI. Newly planted trees include mockernut and shagbark hickories, cucumber trees, black gums/tupelos, Kentucky coffee trees, bald cypresses and swamp white oaks. Some residents may be

surprised to see bald cypresses or swamp white oaks, but those species tolerate both prolonged soaking and drought. These qualities enhance the resilience of our urban forest in a changing climate. Also planted were yellowwoods, a nearby native, and a non-native deodar cedar.

For the areas owned by the city, the Advisory Committee on Trees works with city staff to develop plans for the planting and care of trees. The committee advises the city council on all matters related to the city's tree resources. This year the city celebrated its 25th Arbor Day tree planting, and next year it will celebrate the 25th anniversary of Greenbelt's designation as a Tree City USA.

GHI arborist. Community members were invited to comment on the plantings.

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Where Are the New Trees?

Museum area: Four trees were planted by Pepco under the direction of the city's Public Works Department to compensate for trees taken down near powerlines.

Near playgrounds at Plateau Place, south of Northway and South of Eastway: 31 trees were planted by Public Works with the help of volunteers to celebrate Arbor Day.

Other common areas: 19 trees were planted in six common areas by the GHI Woodlands Committee.

Where old junipers had been removed: 17 trees were planted under the direction of the GHI Maintenance Department.

Several other common areas are still in need of planting.



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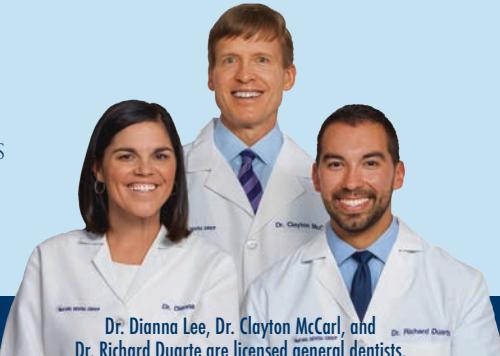
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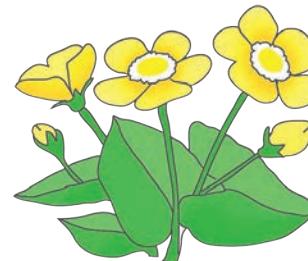
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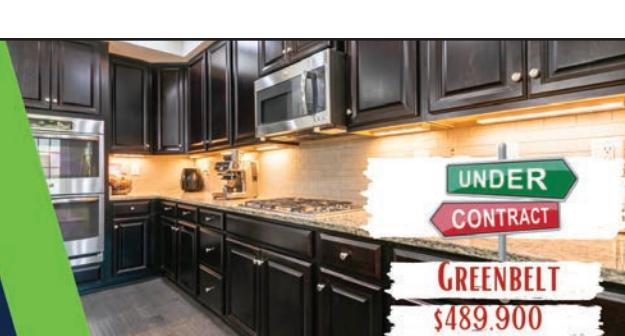
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COUNCIL continued from page 1

these indispensable first responders, whose efforts are often largely responsible for the positive outcome of a police call for service.

Earth Day was lauded next, falling on April 22 and in its 55th year of existence. Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll and Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS) board member Carolyn Lambright Davis were on hand. They thanked council for its support and shared the various activities scheduled, with Davis stating the Day's driving impetus is "to make Earth Day every day."

April is Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month. Anne Oudemans, assistant director of Recreation Programs, was there to accept the proclamation, informing those present about an inclusivity training for staff on Saturday, April 26 at 1 p.m. at the Community Center to heighten awareness.

Last was an acknowledgement of Animal Control Awareness Week, which ran from April 13 to 19. Bowers reported the significant renovations at the Animal Shelter, with Council-member Silke Pope praising the crucial work of the staff at the shelter, which is now at full capacity.

EV Charging Stations

City Manager Josué Salmerón then gave an administrative summary. Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations for the Community Center and Greenbelt Library parking lot are in the engineering phase, while those at Buddy Attick Park are still in the planning stage. The EV payment platform for Schrom Hills Park and Springhill Lake Recreation Center has moved to Switch, offering better reliability.

Pool Closing

Construction is on track and work permits pending at the outdoor pool with a start date of May 5 being the goal. Those wishing to pause their membership can do so by email, phone or in person.

GPD and Immigration

The meeting's first piece of legislation was an ordinance to the City Code that would codify the Greenbelt Police Department's (GPD) existing General Order to not assist in the enforcement of immigration issues, except in the case of a criminal warrant issued by a judge. This issue elicited a strong positive response from residents at the meeting, like Frankie Santos Fritz, who invoked the

high-profile names of Mahmoud Khalil, Mohsen Mahdawi and Kilmar Abrego Garcia, all of whom have undergone immigration controversies and hardships, with the lack of due process being cited. He saw this as a chance for the city to make its commitment to the legal rights of all its residents. Council all voted in favor of the ordinance.

Stop Sign Monitoring

Council voted unanimously in favor of an amendment to the City Code, according to the agenda, "to establish and authorize the operation of stop sign monitoring systems within designated school zones in the city," as well as setting forth "the requirements for signage, public notice, civil enforcement procedures and penalties." Bowers explained that this was an enabling effort that would commence a many-staged process of data collection and site designation, to be approved by council as well as, ultimately, county council. He reported that current stop sign compliance is deficient at only 20 percent as seen through current data.

School Zones

A similar piece of legislation was addressed next, this being, per the agenda, "to establish a school zone on municipal roads in the city to implement automated stop sign enforcement" within said zones. As pursuant with state law, these zones would be in a one-half mile radius. The resolution would also show support "to enhance traffic safety" in these high pedestrian areas. Like the previous legislation, this was a crucial early step in a long process of study and site choosing to be approved by council and county council. Council voted in favor.

Charter Review

Council chose to delay any action on the application stage for the pending Charter Review Task Force. There has been a lack of response from Greenbelt East and West, with the majority of the 11 applicants, for an eventual 10-person team, from Greenbelt Center. Council discussed an intensive outreach to the East and West sections of the

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city to achieve better representation. Resident Michael Hartman suggested making the whole idea of a charter and its importance more understood by residents, with Salmerón defining it as "a community vision."

Portal Contract

The last legislation, approved unanimously, was to execute a contract renewal to Versatem for the Public Portal cloud and the Blue Team NextGen cloud-hosted annual maintenance, including software upgrades, associated materials and technical support via phone and email, at a cost of \$10,833.27. Bowers explained that the public portal, a tool for the GPD, is a required arm of the department to collect complaints and compliments, with the other portal acting as internal HR system.

Opposition to Maglev

The evening's last vote was for council and staff to send a letter to Governor Wes Moore and Lt. Governor Aruna Miller further making the city's strong opposition to the proposed maglev project known.

Retirement Plan

A comprehensive discussion with the city's broker national financial partners (NFP) corporation occurred at the meeting concerning the shift of the city's retirement plan from its long-term use of Mission Square to Nationwide. Council voted in favor of the move, which would mean significant savings for all participants. Human Resources Director Dawane Martinez stated that the city's current employees, for whom the change will be the most impactful, have expressed nothing but positive reactions to the move. The city's retirees can use any recordkeeping provider desired at any time, including Mission Square. A more detailed article on this will be forthcoming.

A few items on the end of the agenda were left for the next regular meeting.

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City Notes

The City Manager held a second Armory-related public meeting and met with Public Safety/Community about first amendment rallies, unhoused individuals and other constituent concerns.

Legislative and Constituent Services facilitated Maryland Senator Alonzo Washington's town hall at the Greenbelt Library. Economic Development exhibited at a county job fair and met with the Maryland Commerce Department's new Assistant Secretary of Business Attraction.

Demolition of the indoor pool deck is underway.

Recreation staff facilitated the Annual Egg Hunt at Greenbelt Lake. Spring break activities included Spring Camp at the Youth Center, Fast-Break Clinic at Springhill Lake Recreation Center and Spring Circus Camp at the Community Center.

At a catering networking event, the Community Center supervisor promoted rental opportunities for its commercial kitchen, now featuring a new commercial refrigerator.

Arts offered special programs including a jewelry workshop and an art share.

Park Rangers supported a shredding event, an Arbor Day tree planting and a gardening get-together at the Lake.



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EGG HUNT continued from page 1

The egg hunt is divided into age groups to keep the experience safe and fun for all participants. After a quick countdown, kids dashed into their designated zones in search of the bright plastic eggs – many of which contained candy, toys, stickers and temporary tattoos.

Harvey, a first-grader, was one of the lucky few who found a golden egg. He beamed with pride as he rummaged through the prize bag he received in exchange. “It’s really exciting for all of us,” said his sister Mabel, noting that after years of attending the egg hunt, no one in their family had ever found a golden egg before.

For many families, the Easter Egg Hunt is an annual tradition.

“We’ve been coming every year since [my daughter] was old enough to walk,” said Briana Festive, a Greenbelt resident. “It’s nearby, well-organized and it’s great that they have other activities to do after. The egg hunt only lasts around 30 seconds, so it’s nice there’s more reason to stay.”

It’s more like two minutes, but it goes by quickly. In a blink,

little hands scoop up every last egg from the grass, leaving behind empty shells and excited chatter. But the fun doesn’t end there – families lingered in the park, snapping pictures with the Easter Bunny, getting their faces painted, catching up with neighbors and enjoying the activities scattered around the area.

And that, Daeleman says, is the heart of it all. “It’s a great opportunity, it’s free and it’s a chance for people to just come out and enjoy some relatively nice weather,” he said. “I think these types of events are what make Greenbelt feel like a community.”

Diya Shah is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the Greenbelt News Review.

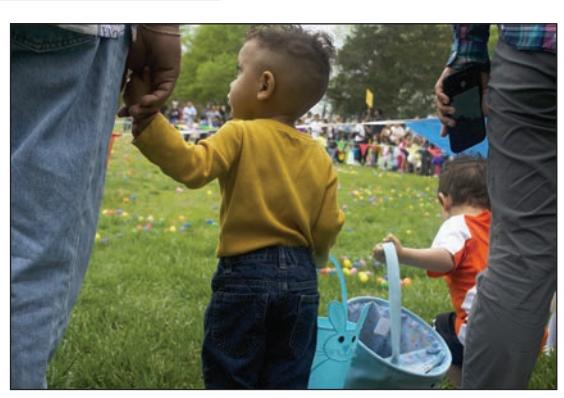
Golden Egg Winners
Harvey Canavan
Roman King
Nathalie Rojas
Alexander Roque
Karl Stone



Children pose with the Easter Bunny.



Facepainting during the festivities at Buddy Attick Park



Parents accompany smaller children, helping them grab the eggs.



Onlookers circle the egg hunting area.

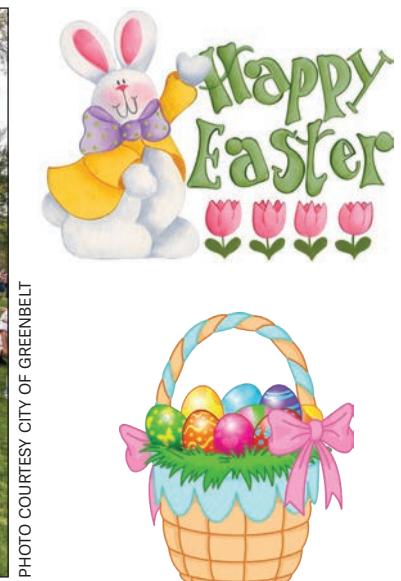


PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT



Harvey Canavan, one of the golden egg winners, and his sister Mabel

PHOTO BY DIYA SHAH

Golden Egg winner Roman King



Children hunt for eggs in the grass.

Golden Egg winner Nathalie Rojas with her sister

PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT



A small egg-hunter pauses to take in the scene.



Kids get their faces painted following the hunt.

PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT



Kids dash across the grass to grab as many eggs as possible.

PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT